

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Chandler, John W., House

other names/site number Chandler, John, House (DHR Number 065-0530)  
Mears House

**2. Location**

street & 3342 Main Street ☐ not for publication  
number \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Exmore ☐ vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Northampton code 131 Zip 23350

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action

Signature of Keeper

**U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**Name of Property:** Chandler, John W., House  
**Location:** Northampton, Virginia

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

<u>X</u>	private
<u>    </u>	public—local
<u>    </u>	public—state
<u>    </u>	public—Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

<u>  X  </u>	building (s)
<u>     </u>	district
<u>     </u>	site
<u>     </u>	structure
<u>     </u>	object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	0 buildings
<u>0</u>	0 sites
<u>2</u>	0 structures
<u>0</u>	0 objects
<u>5</u>	0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)[illegible]

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

[illegible]

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Name of Property: Chandler, John W., House  
Location: Northampton, Virginia

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

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### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation BRICK

Roof SLATE

Walls WOOD: Weatherboard

Other

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**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Name of Property: Chandler, John W., House  
Location: Northampton, Virginia

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)ARCHITECTUREAGRICULTURECOMMERCE**Period of Significance** 1889-1954**Significant Dates** 1889—lot purchase1890—house construction1935—death of John Chandler**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)Chandler, John W.**Cultural Affiliation** N/A**Architect/Builder****Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**       preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.       previously listed in the National Register       previously determined eligible by the National Register       designated a National Historic Landmark       recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #                                        recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #                                 **Primary Location of Additional Data**  X   State Historic Preservation Office.       Other State agency       Federal agency       Local government       University       OtherName of repository:

Name of Property: Chandler, John W., House  
Location: Northampton, Virginia

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property 2.5

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>427289</u>	<u>4154019</u>	3	
2	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	4	

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Kimble A. David, Architectural Historian

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ date: 1 July 2004

street & number P. O. Box 7638 telephone 757/623.3456

city or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23509

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Joseph and Dorothy Ortelli

street & number P O Box 95 telephone 757 / 442 . 5100

city or town Jamesville state VA zip code 23398

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Northampton, Virginia**

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**Architectural Description**

**Summary Architectural Description**

The John W. Chandler House was constructed in 1890 in the Queen Anne style. It is a large frame house clad in weatherboard crowned by a complex hipped-cross-gabled roof clad in slate shingles. Accentuating the northeast corner of the house is a tower with octagonal roof. The north elevation is articulated by a two-story, projecting, canted bay capped by a closed gable. A projecting curved bay, crowned by a closed gable with Palladian-style window, accents the south elevation. A wrap around porch with Tuscan columns dominates the façade, though currently removed.

The interior of the dwelling exhibits pine flooring and plaster on lathe walls. There are two fireplaces in the center of the house with ornate surrounds exhibiting glazed tile, carved wood elements and leaded glass. The foyer has a turned staircase with turned balusters and paneled newel posts. The windows and doorways have wood surrounds articulated by cornerblocks with a roundel motif. There are pocket doors between the foyer, sitting room and the living room.

There are three outbuildings and a pond associated with the house located to the west and south, respectively.

This property is significant under National Register Criteria B and C for its association with John W. Chandler and its rarity of building style in Exmore and architectural integrity. There are three contributing buildings and two contributing structures.

**Detailed Architectural Description**

**Site Description**

The John W. Chandler House is located in the town of Exmore. It is situated at the juncture of the main north-south highway (US Route 13) connecting the southern tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore with the Maryland border, and the road leading to Willis Wharf, a small coastal community on the east side of the Eastern Shore peninsula. The New York, Pennsylvania and Norfolk railroad, which is parallel to US Route 13, is located two blocks east of the house. The house rests on an elevated, flat landmass bound by a concrete wall on the east or street side. There is a poured concrete stair leading from the roadway to the poured concrete walkway that leads to the house. The poured concrete walkway encircles the house. The house is sited approximately 100 feet from the street. Flanking the walkway in front of the house are two mature magnolia trees that date to the construction of the house. The south tree is overgrown and the north

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tree has been trimmed. Additional plantings are found on site and are comprised of deciduous trees primarily toward the west end or rear of the property.

To the west of the house are two outbuildings. They are frame clad in weatherboard with gable roofs clad in wood shingles. The easternmost of the two buildings is a garage. The interior is unimproved. The westernmost building is a storage building. It is also frame clad in weatherboard with a gable roof clad in wood shingles. To the south of these clustered outbuildings is a small storage shed. It is frame clad in weatherboard with a gable roof clad in wood shingles. To the immediate south of the house is a pond. The pond is rectangular and is constructed of poured concrete.

**Architectural Description**

The John W. Chandler House is a two-and-one-half story, Queen Anne, single-family dwelling. It is mahogany-frame construction clad in weatherboard. The roof has a hipped-cross-gable form clad in slate shingles and is pierced by two chimneys. The foundation of the house is a brick wall with light parging and a partial basement on the west end. The façade is dominated by a tower with octagonal roof and pedimented roof dormer. A wrap around porch supported by brick piers has been removed from the façade and side elevations due to damage. This porch exhibits Tuscan columns, turned balusters, a modillion cornice, hipped roof clad in standing-seam metal, and wood stairs.

The side elevations are dominated by two-story, projecting bays. The north side elevation has a canted bay. The bay continues the modillion cornice and there are pendants at the gable ends. Within the gable is a rectangular window with modillion lintel and a pent roof. The south elevation, projecting bay is rounded. The windows within the rounded bay are curved. The bay is shingled in round-cut wood shingles. The bay continues the roof cornice and there is a Palladian window grouping within the pedimented gable. To the east of the rounded bay is a mid-story window. The tower on the northeast corner is one-and-one-half story and commences on the second story. The original foundation of the tower was the porch roof, which has been removed. The tower is octagonal at the roof level. The lower, second story level has windows on the five visible wall planes and the roof cornice is continued. At the roof level the tower is shingled in slate shingles. There are wood, casement windows on the tower below its plain roof cornice. The tower is capped with a copper finial.

The windows throughout the house are 1/1, wood, double-hung sash. The windows on the façade, side elevations at the east end, and on the projecting bays have modillion lintels. Similar articulation is continued on the roof cornice and raking cornices within the closed gables on the side elevations and rear elevation. The façade dormer also exhibits a modillion cornice and raking cornice. The dormer is dominated by a tripartite window grouping. The rear of the dwelling has a gable roof with closed gable.

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The roof cornice continues on this elevation. There is a wrap-around porch on the rear west elevation that continues on the south side elevation. It exhibits a modillion cornice and Tuscan columns. Portions of the porch have been removed.

The front wood door, which is articulated with nine panels and a beveled light, gains access to the foyer from the front porch. The foyer is dominated by a stair with landing. The stair newels are paneled and square with finials and pendants, and the balusters are turned. On the landing are windows, including a casement window on the east wall of the south bay. Under the stair is a closet. The wood, closet door has five panels, whose characteristics are seen on all other interior doors throughout the house. The foyer retains its original light fixture. To the north of the foyer is the front sitting room. To the south of the front sitting room is a living room or back parlor. To the west of the foyer and south of the living room is the dining room. These four rooms comprise the formal spaces of the dwelling. The dining room contains the rounded bay windows and the living room contains the canted bay windows. The rooms exhibit wood baseboards, plaster-on-lathe walls, pine flooring, and wood door and window surrounds with corner roundels and fluted jambs. Between the foyer and front sitting room, the front sitting room and living room, and the living room and dining room there are wood, paneled pocket doors with original brass hardware. Original radiators that provided heat remain throughout the house.

There are two fireplaces on the first story. There is a corner fireplace in the living room at the southwest corner of the room. It exhibits a carved wood mantel with beveled mirror and glazed tile. Sharing the same chimney is the dining room fireplace located in the northwest corner of the dining room. This fireplace has a carved wood mantel exhibiting Ionic and Tuscan columns and Queen Anne-inspired, leaded-glass doors above the beveled mirror. It retains similar glazed tiles, and firebox cover and surround found in the living room fireplace.

To the west of the dining room is a doorway with a five-panel door accessing the servant stair, storage room and kitchen. The storage room is located west of the stair and continues under the landing. The kitchen reflects less ornate window and door surroundings. There is an original counter with cabinet in the northwest corner. In addition, an exposed brick chimney is located on the west wall with a stovepipe hole and foundation for a stove.

The second story plan echoes the first story plan. There is a main hallway oriented east-west connecting the bedrooms and lavatory. The bedrooms have similar baseboard, window and door surrounds, walls and flooring seen on the first story. The doors throughout have five panels, and are surmounted by transoms. Original light fixtures have been retained. A fireplace in the north bedroom has been covered and the exposed chimney found in the kitchen continues to the bedroom on the second story. The fireplace has been parged and contains a modern mantel and stovepipe hole. Radiators remain in all rooms. The



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northeast room extends northeast from the original sitting room plan to incorporate the tower area. On the southwest corner of the house is a lavatory. It retains its original fixtures and has a linoleum tiled floor.

Near the northwest corner of the second story is an enclosed stair accessing the attic story. The attic is unfinished and has a wood plank floor. The roof structure is visible. The central fireplace, brick chimney is corbelled in the attic terminating at its location on the apex of the rear gable extension.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Summary Statement of Significance**

The John W. Chandler House was constructed in 1890 in the Queen Anne style near the Exmore Station along the New York, Pennsylvania and Norfolk railroad stop on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in Northampton County. Chandler was an Eastern Shore native and produce broker. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century he had become the largest produce broker on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and a major landholder in Northampton County. He invested heavily in real estate acquiring most land within the villages of Exmore and Oyster. He is responsible for originally platting these two villages and providing economic support with his various business interests. He operated multiple businesses including oyster harvesting, fire insurance, and fertilizer manufacturing. To support his main business of shipping produce he owned over two thousand acres of land in Northampton County, which was primarily farmed and provided timber. His diversified business interests and large landholdings made him a significant figure in Northampton County, Virginia. The property is considered under National Register Criteria B and C for its association with Chandler, its rarity of building style in Exmore and its architectural integrity during the period of significance, which is 1889 to 1954, the period in which Chandler family resided at the house.

**Statement of Significance**

John William Chandler was born on the *Anderson Farm* near Craddockville in Accomack County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1869.<sup>1</sup> He was the son of John J. and Maggie T. Chandler of Accomack County. His family relocated to Willis Wharf, a waterfront community on the east side of Northampton County near the Northampton-Accomack County border, when he was young. His family relocated again to Nassawadox located south of Willis Wharf.<sup>2</sup> There is no specific record of his youth, but it is known that his father was an Eastern Shore farmer.

In 1888, Chandler returned to Willis Wharf, which served as one of several shipping hubs for the export of locally grown produce and harvested seafood and fish. His return to Willis Wharf marked the commencement of his life-long occupation as a produce-broker. He initially worked alone, but then partnered with William J. Rue another produce broker.<sup>3</sup> This partnership dissolved early in Chandler's career, and he continued brokering produce on his own.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia was primarily agrarian in nature during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Produce was shipped via steamship to major harbors such as Norfolk, Baltimore, and other points north.

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The southern climate of the Eastern Shore brought certain produce to market prior to northern farms. This enabled Eastern Shore farmers to provide locally grown crops to northern markets during peak pricing periods. The steamship provided adequate transportation of goods to port towns in the north. In addition to locally grown produce, seafood harvests such as oysters were also a profitable market. This symbiotic relationship between northern markets and southern farms was beneficial throughout the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>4</sup>

Since the primary mode of transportation was via water routes, most towns in Northampton County were located on either side of the peninsula. Prior to the opening of the New York, Pennsylvania and Norfolk railroad, there were few inland towns.<sup>5</sup>

A railroad was proposed just prior to the Civil War from New York to the Eastern Shore of Virginia with the intention of connecting to Norfolk via steamship at a terminal at the south end of the Eastern Shore peninsula. The goal of the railroad was to provide access to southern markets from the north and ease travel between the north and Norfolk, a major southern port. A map drawn in May 1855 for a proposed New York and Norfolk Airline Railroad shows the railroad terminating at Kiptopeke, the southernmost point of the peninsula, and a harbor on the Chesapeake Bay known as Cherrystone at Kings Creek. This port would later be renamed Cape Charles, which was developed as a major Eastern Shore port town. The proposed railroad followed the inland or Bayside Road, which was the western north-south land route through Northampton County. There was an east or Seaside Road that ran parallel to the Bayside Road.<sup>6</sup> The Civil War caused the cessation of the development of the proposed rail line until the 1870s. At this point the Pennsylvania Railroad became a large proponent of the creation of the line. The New York, Pennsylvania and Norfolk Railroad was formed and began acquiring land along its proposed route in 1883.<sup>7</sup>

The original plan was to parallel both the Seaside and Bayside Roads, but the placement of the line was roughly between the two roads. In some cases it was oriented to significant 19<sup>th</sup> century towns, such as Eastville, the Northampton County seat.<sup>8</sup> The route chosen by the New York, Pennsylvania and Norfolk Railroad was the east or seaside route that paralleled the Seaside Road or the present day US Route 13. The reorientation of the railroad and its planned stops produced new villages. Though many villages vied for a stop, in most cases the early towns or villages were not near the railroad line.

The Exmore Station was the tenth stop on the railroad south of the Virginia line. Noted as X on the early plan, it was given the name Exmore. The origin of the name is disputed as a play on the X for the tenth station or a town in England. There is no documentation to support either.<sup>9</sup> The town of Exmore was not officially formed until 1948, and Exmore Station was its name into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>10</sup>

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While the railroad provided an additional means of transportation, it also hastened the conversion of crops on the Eastern Shore. Sweet and Irish potatoes, strawberries, and other perishable crops were cultivated and shipped to regional markets. While grains had been cultivated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for the local market, it was now limited to animal feed. The Eastern Shore saw a major change in its agricultural business with the addition of the railroad. In addition to augmenting travel and transportation, the railroad modernized the Eastern Shore produce business into a viable market.<sup>11</sup>

Chandler took advantage of the proximity of the Exmore Station and Willis Wharf, and established his produce brokerage business at Exmore Station, which was still rural, open land. In 1889, Chandler purchased his first parcel of land near Exmore Station. The purchase was for one acre, more or less, of land near Exmore Station at the head of the road to Willis Wharf from the Seaside Road, now US Route 13. The area was dominated by the Godwin Farm, which encompassed hundreds of acres on the west side of US Route 13. This one-acre tract is where Chandler constructed his house.<sup>12</sup> The grand, Queen Anne house marked the flat, agrarian landscape, which is best seen in a photo dating to the completion of the house in 1890.<sup>13</sup>

According to oral histories, Chandler constructed the house for his bride, Margaret Susan Young.<sup>14</sup> He and Maggie (her nickname) married March 26, 1890 when Chandler was 21 and she was 23.<sup>15</sup> The house was allegedly the first house constructed at Exmore Station since it had opened in 1884, and the Queen Anne style chosen for the house is unique in Exmore.<sup>16</sup>

The Queen Anne style appeared in the United States in 1880 from England and became a predominant architectural style concurrently with the Colonial Revival style. Its origins are derived from Jacobean architecture and early medieval sources. Unlike the Colonial Revival, which emphasized simplicity and United States heritage, the Queen Anne style was highly ornate with asymmetrical proportions, varying material treatment and steeply pitched roofs. Towers were also common and exhibited panels, shingling, varying window forms, varying articulate cornices and conical, octagonal or pyramidal roofs crowned by finials. Shingles of varying cuts and windows exhibiting stained glass and panes of varying forms and sizes were common. In addition, rounded and canted bays were common on wall planes allowing for asymmetrical roof forms and additional articulation on wall planes. Aside from the highly ornate exterior, the asymmetry of the style was continued on the interior. The plan of the style was open and the exterior bays figured prominently in the formal spaces of the house. In addition, fireplaces were not regulated to the center of a wall plane but appear in corners, and off-center on wall planes.<sup>17</sup>

The Queen Anne style is represented in Northampton County on some farmhouses constructed at the turn of the twentieth century and predominantly in Cape Charles, the terminus of the New York, Pennsylvania and Norfolk Railroad. Cape Charles developed upon the completion of the railroad in 1884 and most

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houses constructed within its grid pattern were built between 1890 and 1920. The Queen Anne style is found in the earlier houses from modest I-house forms to grander houses exhibiting towers, varying roof forms and exterior articulation. The Queen Anne farmhouses are larger scale exhibiting numerous features associated with the Queen Anne style.

The Chandler House, at the time of its construction, was located within vast farm acreage, though near the Exmore Station. The lands available to Chandler to construct his house allowed him space to build a grand house, which employed numerous Queen Anne characteristics. The house exhibits an octagonal tower; large, steeply-pitched roof with intersecting gables; bays on the side elevation exhibiting canted and rounded forms; modillion cornice and raking cornice; and ornate wrap-around porches on the façade and rear elevation. By constructing his house in the fashionable style of the period, which was highly ornate, reflected the wealth he had achieved as a young man, and was a suitable gift for his new bride. Though this was the first of his many investments, it remains a testament to his social status within Exmore and Northampton County.

Chandler's grand house defined the corner of Exmore Station and the road to Willis Wharf, since Exmore Station was, at the time of the house's construction, still surrounded by agricultural land. Records reflect that a railroad station building had been constructed at the Exmore Station, and it is assumed that it was constructed during the period of 1884 to 1890, though. There is no documentation to support this foundation. A deed between the New York, Pennsylvania and Norfolk Railroad and Orris A. Browne in 1893 refers to the acquisition of a strip of land along the railroad that was purchased for the construction of a spur. Orris A. Browne owned land on either side of the railroad at Exmore, which was called the *Yeatman Lot*, though there is no reference to a station.<sup>18</sup> This sale of this strip may have also been an attempt by the railroad to construct a station house.

In 1897, Chandler purchased the remaining land flanking the railroad from Orris A. Browne. In addition to purchasing this lot, he purchased the remainder of the Godwin Farm on the west side of the Seaside Road or US Route 13. He also purchased numerous lots near Exmore Station and throughout Northampton County. There is no early plat of the town of Exmore, but it appears from the deed records that Chandler owned lands on both sides of US Route 13 and the New York, Pennsylvania and Norfolk line in the vicinity of Exmore Station.<sup>19</sup>

His major land acquisition in Exmore at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the remainder of the Godwin farm. Chandler retained the farmland for its agrarian function, but allowed the sale of and lease of lots along the west side US Route 13 for residential and commercial interests. In addition, he owned lands on the east side of US Route 13 between the roadway and the railroad tracks, and north of the road to Willis Wharf. This two-block area served as the original village of Exmore near the railroad station and at the

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intersection of US Route 13 and the road to Willis Wharf.<sup>20</sup>

From deed records, it appears that a town was planned and that Chandler sold lots from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to his just prior to his death.<sup>21</sup> The lots are recorded as a lot or a quarter or half an acre. Though he sold numerous lots, he also owned numerous significant lots and businesses within Exmore. His will of 1935 lists a detailed account of his land and business holdings. He owned a garage, printing office, Benjamin's Store (located across the street from his house), the Western Union Office, his business office (adjacent to his house), numerous commercial buildings within Exmore, a storage house, the lot on which the Cambridge Manufacturing Company's building was located, and the Blacksmith shop. In addition to his business holdings, he owned three houses, which he leased.<sup>22</sup>

His major landholdings throughout Northampton County were the farms he owned and operated to support his produce brokering business. At his death, he owned eleven farms. They were located in Exmore, Willis Wharf, Wardtown, Jamesville, Occanhonnock Neck (near Jamesville), Birds Nest, Cheriton, and Oyster. The total acreage he owned at his death was over two thousand acres. While half of it was agricultural, the other half was timber, which he also sold and shipped.<sup>23</sup>

Aside from his interests in Exmore, he had business interests in Willis Wharf and Oyster. In Oyster he owned the hotel, an oyster house and dock, the post office lot, two houses and four vacant lots. His investment in Oyster was substantial and he is thought to be one of the most significant landowners within this village and one of its founders.<sup>24</sup> His holdings in Willis Wharf included two houses, a factory, and wharf.<sup>25</sup>

His business interests expanded beyond produce brokering. He was a director of the Parksley National Bank, and had formed the Eastern Shore of Virginia Fire Insurance Company. Another business he owned was the Chandler Fertilizer Company, which manufactured and sold fertilizer. He formed this corporation in 1929 and constructed a mixing station east of the railroad tracks.<sup>26</sup> In addition he was the president of Chandler and Ballard, Canning Company, from 1907 to 1917, which operated a canning facility at Exmore.<sup>27</sup>

His business burgeoned in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and he was the largest individual produce broker on the Eastern Shore between 1907 and 1918. He was also a large distributor of fertilizer. He is credited with being the first produce dealer on the Eastern Shore to export Irish potatoes to Cuba and the first to make an all-rail shipment of goods.<sup>28</sup>

Though Chandler had many business interests throughout the Eastern Shore, he also was a local philanthropist. He donated land on Willis Farm between Willis Wharf and Exmore, south of the road to

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Willis Wharf for the construction of the Exmore-Willis Wharf High School. In addition to his donation, he supported the construction of the building by providing construction assistance. With his championing of the construction of the school, many other landowners provided labor assistance for its construction.<sup>29</sup> The school honored Chandler's contribution to the school and community influence at his death with the suspension of classes.<sup>30</sup>

According to the State Board of Education, the school was planned in April 1926. The Division of School Buildings in Richmond designed the building with a central auditorium flanked by classroom wings.<sup>31</sup> The school provided nineteen standard classrooms for five hundred seventy students with an auditorium capacity of six-hundred-seventy-five. It was constructed of brick and was estimated to cost \$73,000.00.<sup>32</sup> The building was constructed during the 1926-1927 school year with a partial occupation by students as early as the spring of 1927. The official opening was slated for September 1927, when the school session commenced.

He and his wife, Maggie were natives of Accomack County. His marriage to Maggie lasted thirty-seven years before she died.<sup>33</sup> During her lifetime, the Chandlers did not have any progeny, and opened their house to family members. According to the 1900 US Census records, a widowed, elderly uncle and a young cousin, aged six, lived at the house. After Maggie's death in 1927, additional family members lived with Chandler.<sup>34</sup> The 1930 US Census shows an elderly, widowed aunt and another widow living at the house.<sup>35</sup>

Shortly after the recordation of the US Census in 1930, Chandler wed Margaret Bell, the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Bell of Jamesville.<sup>36</sup> Maggie, to which she was referred, was over twenty years Chandler's junior. Their marriage was short-lived as Chandler died February 20, 1935 after a bout of pneumonia which had left him bedridden for two months.<sup>37</sup> He left his wife of almost five years a widow at age forty-two with an infant son, John W. Chandler, Jr., who had been born the previous summer. Chandler was buried at Broadwater Methodist Church, though he was not a member, but had contributed to its rebuilding.<sup>38</sup>

After Chandler's death, his estate was settled over a period of three years. Much of his property was sold to pay debts owed by himself and his businesses. His wife, Maggie, retained ownership of the house and a number of lots within Exmore. In addition it is noted that she was the operator of the hotel in Exmore after Chandler's death. During the remaining years of her life she sold the remaining property, except for the house lot. Most of his land within Exmore was deeded to C. J. Prettyman, who is also credited with the formation of Exmore. In the 1940s, Prettyman platted the west side of US Route 13 into blocks for the construction of residential houses.<sup>39</sup>

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Maggie Chandler retained ownership of the house until her death. It was then willed to John W. Chandler, Jr. who occupied the house until his death in 2001. At that point the house was purchased by an aunt who sold it shortly thereafter to the present owner Joseph Ortelli.<sup>40</sup> The house was in a deteriorated state upon Ortelli's purchase and his intention is to restore the house to its original appearance using salvaged.

The John W. Chandler House is significant under Criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places Criteria due to its association with John W. Chandler, who is responsible for the development of the town of Exmore and Oyster in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and its rarity of architectural style in Exmore and architectural integrity. He is also credited with an entrepreneurial spirit reflected in the formation of his corporations and the produce brokering business. The period of significance for this property is 1889, the purchase of the property, to 1954, which is the period of ownership of the house by the Chandler family.



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**Geographical Data (con't)**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The John W. Chandler House encompasses two-and-one-half-acres whose legal description is 010A30100001. This information was provided by the Real Estate Assessor's Office of Northampton County, Virginia. The boundaries are defined by US Route 13 to the east and separately-owned parcels on the north, south and west sides.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries are comprised of the original approximate two-and-one-half-acres that was retained by the Chandler family after the death of John W. Chandler. It encompasses the original one-acre lot he purchased in 1889 for the construction of his house in Exmore. The lot is intact and supports the property's eligibility under Criteria B and C, and the period of significance.

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The photographs listed below that accompany this National Register of Historic Places Nomination are listed below.

1. Name of Property
2. County and State
3. Name of Photographer
4. Date of Photograph
5. Location of Original Negative
6. Description of View
7. Photograph Number

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. East façade
  7. Photo Number 1

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. East façade
  7. Photo Number 2

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond,

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Virginia

6. East façade
7. Photo Number 3

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. South elevation
  7. Photo Number 4

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. West elevation
  7. Photo Number 5

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Northwest oblique
  7. Photo Number 6

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

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- 
6. North elevation
  7. Photo Number 7

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Kitchen—looking northwest
  7. Photo Number 8

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Living room—looking southwest to dining room with fireplace
  7. Photo Number 9

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Living Room—fireplace, looking southwest
  7. Photo Number 10

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Dining room—looking south

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7. Photo Number 11

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1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Dining room—fireplace, looking north
  7. Photo Number 12
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1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Living room—looking north
  7. Photo Number 13
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1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Foyer—looking east
  7. Photo Number 14
- 

1. Chandler, John W., House
2. Northampton County, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. April 2004
5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. Foyer—stair looking southwest
7. Photo Number 15

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1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. 2nd Floor—northeast bedroom, looking northeast
  7. Photo Number 16
- 

1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. 2nd Floor—north bedroom, looking north
  7. Photo Number 17
- 

1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. 2nd Floor—south bedroom, looking south
  7. Photo Number 18
- 

1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. 2nd Floor—west bedroom, looking west
  7. Photo Number 19
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1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. 2nd Floor—secondary stair, looking northeast
  7. Photo Number 20

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. 2nd Floor—lavatory, looking southwest
  7. Photo Number 21

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. 2nd Floor—hall, looking west
  7. Photo Number 22

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Attic—looking southwest
  7. Photo Number 23

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1. Chandler, John W., House

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2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Attic—looking up in tower
  7. Photo Number 24

- 
1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Outbuildings—garage and shed, southeast oblique
  7. Photo Number 25

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1. Chandler, John W., House
  2. Northampton County, Virginia
  3. Kimble A. David
  4. April 2004
  5. Negative Number 21415, Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
  6. Outbuildings—shed, northeast oblique
  7. Photo Number 26

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<sup>1</sup> J. W. Chandler, 65, *Died on Monday*. The Northampton Times. Vol. XXXIII, No. 7, Cape Chares, VA, February 21, 1935.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> David, Kimble A. *Architectural Survey of the Town of Exmore in Northampton County, Virginia*. Norfolk, VA: November 2000.

<sup>5</sup> *Map Profile of Experimental Survey, VA Section: New York and Norfolk Airline Railroad*. May 1855.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Northampton County Deed Index, Grantees, to 1917. Northampton County, Virginia.

<sup>8</sup> *Map Profile of Experimental Survey, VA Section: New York and Norfolk Airline Railroad*.

<sup>9</sup> Turman, Nora Miller. The Eastern Shore of Virginia: 1603-1964. Onancock, VA: The Eastern Shore News, Inc., 1964, 203.

<sup>10</sup> Mears, James Egbert. *Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia*. Ed. by Charles B. Clarke, Ph.D. The Eastern Shore of Virginia in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc, 1950, 615.

<sup>11</sup> Turman, 204.

<sup>12</sup> Northampton County Deed Records. Northampton County, Virginia.

<sup>13</sup> Ortelli, Joseph. *Personal Interview*. May 2004. Photograph in Joseph Ortelli's possession.

<sup>14</sup> Ortelli, Parham, Leon. *PIF Chandler House*. Cape Charles, VA: 2003.

<sup>15</sup> Northampton County Marriage Book 2, p. 117, line 21.

<sup>16</sup> Virginia Department of Historic Resources. *Mears House 065-0530*.

<sup>17</sup> Lanier, Gabrielle M. and Bernard L. Herman. Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997, pp. 159-162.

<sup>18</sup> Northampton County Deed Records. Northampton County, Virginia.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Northampton County Deed Records. Northampton County, Virginia.

<sup>21</sup> Northampton County Plat Book 11, p. 22. Northampton County, Virginia. A plat of the addition to the Town of Oyster by J.W. Chandler dated 1926 was recorded in Northampton County in 1979. From this document and deed records, it is assumed that Chandler may also have a platted the area in Exmore, though no plat exists.

<sup>22</sup> Northampton County Will Record, Book 47, p. 105-106. Northampton County, Virginia.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Northampton County Plat Book 11, p.22. Northampton County, Virginia.

<sup>25</sup> Northampton County Will Record, Book 47, p. 105-106.

<sup>26</sup> Parham.

<sup>27</sup> *John W. Chandler Dies at Home at Exmore Monday*. Peninsula Enterprise. Volume LIV, Accomack Courthouse, VA, February 23, 1935.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> State Board of Education (Virginia). Architectural Drawings, Willis Wharf-Exmore School, Northampton County, Virginia, April 1926.

<sup>32</sup> State Board of Education (Virginia). Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, School Year 1926-1927. Richmond, Virginia, November 1927.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>34</sup> U.S. Census. Department of Commerce—Bureau of the Census. 1900.

<sup>35</sup> U.S. Census. Department of Commerce—Bureau of the Census. 1930.

<sup>36</sup> *Chandler-Bell*. The Northampton Times. Cape Chares, VA, May 8, 1930.

<sup>37</sup> *John W. Chandler Dies at Home at Exmore Monday*.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Northampton County Plat Book 4, p. 154; Plat Book 5, pp. 20, 28, 128. Northampton County, Virginia.

<sup>40</sup> Parham.